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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian

No. 319. APRIL, 1933.

ATONEMENT. At-one-ment.

FORGIVENESS. Forth-giveness.

SALVATION. Health. (OLD ENGLISH.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

We welcome this month a contribution from the pen of Mr. Joseph Bibby, the well-known Liverpool manufacturer, whose beautiful art reproductions in his "Calendars" "Annuals," and magazines have done so much to popularise the treasures of art. Mr. Bibby can write with the experience of over four score years, and we are confident that what he has presented to the "Non-Subscribing Presbyterian" will be read with much interest.

We regret having referred to the "brogue" of the Rev. J. Miskimmin, B.A. What we said was intended as a compliment; but evidently it "missed fire," as we are informed to get "the brogue" we have to go further afield than Down and Antrim, away to Cavan and Donegal. We have only the highest esteem for Mr. Miskimmin's sound qualifications and his ability as a public speaker, and regret the sad necessity which has caused his retirement.

The Moderator—The profound sympathy of the whole denomination is with the Moderator because of the very serious illness through which he has passed. We all unite in the hope for a speedy and complete recovery, though we realise, even under most favourable conditions, time will be needed.

Subsidy Fund.—Contributions gratefully received by the Manager—Rev. G. J. Slipper, 7 Trevor Hill, Newry.

DEATHS.

Barker—March 2nd, 1933, at his residence, 25 Cyprus Park, Bloomfield, Belfast, John Edwin Barker, son of the late Samuel Barker, Framlingham, Suffolk.

McCullough—At Ballyhalbert, Co. Down, on Tuesday, March 7th, 1933, Mrs. John McCullough.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

The annual meeting of the Ulster District was held on Tuesday, March 14th, in the Central Hall, Rosemary Street, Belfast, preceded by a devotional service in the First Presbyterian Church, Rosemary Street, conducted by Mrs. E. R. Jackson, Mrs. Geo. J. Slipper officiating at the organ. Members were present from nine branches. The present holders of office were re-elected with the addition of Miss J. Barry Munn as Friendly Links Secretary The annual reports were presented by Miss Eileen Andrews, hon. sec.; Mrs. E. R. Jackson, publications; and Mrs. J. G. Davies, fellowship. The financial position was not very strong, but it was decided to pay part expenses of a delegate to the General Assembly in London in May.

Mountpottinger—The Women's League held their last meeting of the session on Monday, March 6th. A Kitchen Shower opened the evening and proved a financial success. A social hour followed, and all enjoyed the musical items contributed by Mrs. John Allen and Miss Ashworth, A.L.C.M. Mrs. Ewbank presided, and a very happy evening was concluded by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

Holywood—The Women's League have two successful meetings to record. On 13th February Mrs. Ewbank, of Mountpottinger, gave an instructive address on the timely subject of "Gambling." Some of those who listened to it wish that the speaker would write out her remarks for publication in the "Non-Subscriber." She was given the hearty thanks of the meeting. On March 8th the monthly meeting was of an entirely different character. It took the form of a tea-party,

with plenty of games. The branch had as its guests members of the League from All Soul's (Belfast) and Comber During the evening Miss Praeger gave one of her deligh ful readings, which was much appreciated. The evening was much enjoyed by all, and Mrs. Munn of Comber and Mrs. Jackson of All Souls voiced the appreciation and thanks of the visitors.

SOME BELFAST AUTHORS.

As one enters the vestibule of the First Church on the right hand will be seen an odd shaped white marble monument to a Captain Charles Hamilton. Few now-a-days know that it is a memorial to one of the most brilliant Oriental scholars of his day, a friend of Warren Hastings and one of the first authors claiming Belfast as his birthplace. His father, Charles Hamilton, was one of the Scottish family of Woodhall. What business he was engaged in in Belfast we have no record, but he married Katherine Mackay, sister of the Rev. James Mackay, the assistant and successor to the Rev. T. Drennan. Captain Mackay translated the "Hedeya," and other Indian writings. He probably received his early education at David Manson's notable school.

Elizabeth Hamilton, his youngest sister, is best remembered by the "Cottages of (enhunie," one of the *best sellers* of its day in Ulster. She also wrote some articles on India, being particularly attached to her brother and both working together in reading and translating Oriental M.SS., particularly translating the Mussulman Code of Laws.

Chance first divulged her descriptive ability as a writer. Joining a party of friends going to the Highlands she wrote a journal describing scenes and incidents for the amusement of her aunt, Mrs. Marshall. That lady showed it to a friend, who was so pleased with it that she sent it to a magazine, where it appeared to the author's astonishment. On the death of her brother in 1792, she took up literary work seriously, her first being "The Hindoo Rajah," founded on her brother's letters and conversations. She also wrote a number of poems, one set to music became very popular, "My Ain ireside." Another refers to Dr. Bruce and his series of sermons upon "The Evidences of Christianity"—

"When Bruce displayed with eloquence divine,
Proofs of that light by Revelation given,
Most precious gift of ever bounteous Heaven!
With easy grace his copious language flowed,
As grave it reasoned, or indignant glowed."

Then there was Dr. Wm. Drennan, 1754-1820, the first to write of Ireland as "The Emerald Isle." He and his sister, Mrs. McTier, have been recently again brought before literary circles in "The Drennan Letters," published by our Northern Government, George Benn, mentioned in a previous article, and Robert Patterson, author of various works on Natural History.

HENRY JOY, 1755-1835.

An Elder of First Belfast for many years, in commercial life he conducted the *Belfast News-Letter* through a trying period in the early days of that periodical. Succeeding his uncle and father, Henry and Robert Joy, as editor and proprietor he made this paper a power in guiding, enlightening and refining the public mind. In a period marked by the American Revolution, French and Spanish Wars, the era of Irish Volunteers, the 1798 Rebellion, the struggles for freedom of trade and legislative independence between the Parliaments of England and Ireland, the French Revolution and succeeding wars, and the Union of Great Britain and Ireland, he made a reputation as editor of singular ability, prudence and independence. He was prominent in the old Belfast Literary Society, and took especial interest in Church music, he with others laying the foundation of the fine musical standing of the First House choir.

Francis Dalzel Finlay, another prominent layman, founded the *Northern Whig*, which for many years upheld the cause of the Non-Subscribing Church. As I understand Mr. Shannon Millen is writing his biography, I only mention him as a member of Rosemary Street.

H. J. F. ORR.

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ON GROWING OLD

By Joseph Bibby.

During the pilgrimage from childhood to old age many experiences are encountered, some pleasant and others the reverse. Even a child can have experiences both agreeable and distasteful.

Favourable and unfavourable experiences differ at each part of life's progress, but the same principle obtains all along the journey, and our happiness and progress are determined mainly by the way in which we meet these experiences and whether or not we turn them to good account. They vary as we grow and develop, and the lessons they bring, if mastered are always those which are helpful to us in reaching forward towards the next movement in evolutionary progress.

The following incident will perhaps serve to indicate the point now reached by the present writer in his life's pilgrimage and may also prove of interest to some of his readers:—

A day or two ago, when calling at an Insurance Society's office to collect a small annuity, I remarked to the cashier that he must be thinking it was time for me to be "going west". "Oh, no!" was the reply, "you should have a year or two more yet", and he at once took down his book of reference to see what expectation of life a person could expect who was just passing his eighty-second birthday. To my agreeable surprise, it appeared that according to the Company's statistics of the average vitality of men of my age, my expectation of life was good for a further five years: it was rather an unbelievable revelation, for I have already had an exceptionally good innings.

Let me then at the beginning of this little homily, state that the chief lessons which my present pilgrimage through life has brought home to me are that the varied troubles and difficulties through which one passes on this journey are *trials* in the true sense of the word. They strengthen our courage and patience, as the roots of the tree are strengthened in the storm; and the measure of response that we make to these testings is the determining factor in our rate of progress. Judging by my own experience, disabilities are not permanently injurious if they are met in the right spirit and the necessary effort is made to learn the useful lesson they have come to teach. The study of biography makes it abundantly clear that unfavourable conditions have been powerless to keep down the man who has fitted himself for higher and better things.

It is not claimed, however, that all experiences can be turned to immediate account, for it sometimes happens that many years pass before we are able to utilise the knowledge and experience thus gained: often, too, we are unable to solve a problem immediately it presents itself. The answer, however, will later be forthcoming if we continue to seek a solution, for rightly directed thought exerts an immeasurable influence, and finally develops that latent quality in the character which is needed to meet the occasion.

For that reason it is very desirable that every effort should be made to trace the cause to its source when either an individual or a nation experiences troublesome times; for only by so doing can it be discovered where the pathway has been missed that would have led in the right direction. The only sound wisdom is to look within for the cause of the trouble and to deal with it at its source. It is a waste of energy to seek deliverance by methods which ignore the fact that when once the inner life is made right, the outer conditions will take care of themselves.

It is also a proven truth that, from childhood onwards, efforts which are inspired and directed from the Higher Self—the divine element within—lead to lasting happiness and progress, whereas that attitude of mind which is self-seeking and which directs enquiry not to "how much can I give", but "how much can I get", fails to produce the unity and harmony necessary to all true advancement. It is always the narrow self-centred outlook upon life which produces the disorders from which individuals and nations so often suffer.

At the later stages of my own pilgrimage through life, it is observed that the possession of a working philosophy is a most valuable acquisition. Observation and experience alike have made it clear that when ignorance or inexperience is at the wheel, mistaken turnings are taken which lead to retardment of progress and finally to suffering and loss.

But a working philosophy of life should be based on a wisdom, the outcome of experience, and should be capable of bringing all the ascertained facts into harmony while, at the same time, throwing a strong ray of light on the true purpose of life and how that purpose is to be achieved. We might, for example, enjoy a much higher level of individual health, were we better acquainted with the laws which determine physical wellbeing and possessed of a ready willingness to order every activity in obedience to that knowledge.

Exactly the same principle applies in regard to social and international health: what the peoples of the earth need to-day more than anything else is a philosophy of life which will give them a clearer understanding of the purpose of life and of the laws whereby results come about in human life. With this knowledge we might avoid the troubles into which we now come and might lay the foundations of a civilisation far more satisfactory in every way than that which we possess to-day.

But to return to present experiences, I think it was the Psalmist who said that "the days of our years are threescore years and ten, and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour, and sorrow." Happily, since that date there has been a growth of knowledge; and during advancing age, so far as my observation and experience go, the conditions are similar to those which obtain at every other stage in life's pilgrimage; and though it brings disadvantages, it has also many compensations.

It may be taken for granted, that no one's life at this period is altogether free from disabilities. It is not an agreeable experience, for example, to discover that nearly all one's early friends have "passed on". Retrospect of this kind naturally tends to bring a sense of loneliness, which even our interests in the rising generation cannot dispel. In addition, other disabilities often make their presence felt, such as a lessoned capacity for hearing, or failing eyesight, and usually some physical weakness impairs one's activities; but even with all these failings there are compensations, some of which may far outweigh the losses.

Life is a school, where each period brings its own lessons to be learned, and its own opportunities. In advancing age the stresses incident to earning a living are lessened: the ups and downs of passions are abated, and there comes a more tranquil state of mind conducive to reflection and contemplation.

There is no doubt that a great truth is incorporated in Carlyle's words "Nothing dies, nothing can die" and as this becomes more clear, it is realised that the trend of things is towards ever higher attainment. There is no greater illusion than to imagine that one's life is finished when the vital spark—the true Self—quits its present physical embodiment. All the observed facts point in the opposite direction and clearly indicate that both the individual and the human race are in process of evolution and that the present life is but a short episode in the eternal life of the soul.

To relegate to the scrap heap attainments which have been won through countless years of effort does not commend itself to one who believes that each individual, as well as each nation, is sharing in the evolutionary progress which is for ever going on around us.

All the data seems to suggest that we are included in a larger organism, "in which we live and move and have our being", and that the ideal conditions, social and international, will descend upon the human race in so far as there is developed a further realisation of the practical implications of this unity. When that day arrives this knowledge will enable everyone to be willing to sacrifice cheerfully any personal or sectional interest which is found to be out of harmony with the larger good.

With this outlook, the questions which relate to human wellbeing will be considered from a new view-point, and methods of attainment will be found that are conducive to progress, individual, social and national; the methods of war and industrial strife will be more clearly seen than at present to be policies of futility.

At this stage in life's pilgrimage there arises a favourable opportunity to come into closer contact with the Higher Power which ever leads to still further unfoldment of those qualities which make for unity and harmony, and hence for industrial and social progress. According to all analogy, these gains are not lost when the present life is over, but will be of useful service when the next stage in evolutionary progress is to be achieved.

Mountpottinger—The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held on Wednesday, March 15th, when Mr. James Orr presided over a moderate attendance. The financial statement showed that notwithstanding all possible restriction of expenditure there was a debit balance on the year's working due to a drop in receipts from Stipends and Collections. The various Officers were re-elected and Messrs T. A. Forrest and Hugh McCullough appointed to fill existing vacancies on the Church Committee. After business had concluded the members of the Women's League served light refreshments. Following these a short musical programme was rendered by Mrs. J. Allen, Miss B. Moore, Mr. P. C. Morris and Mr. H. Shepherd, the last-named acting as accompanist.

* * *

Published on the **Fifth** Saturday of the month. Copy should be in before the **22nd** at the latest. Editor: Rev. John Barron, Ballywalter, Co. Down.

OBITUARIES.

The relatives of the late Rev. James Kennedy have consented to the publication of the following notice:

Rev. James Kennedy.

"The father of the Church," the Rev. James Kennedy has ministered for 55 years a Rademon and Larne. His Moderatorship of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church is still vividly remembered, as it had good need to be, 1914-15 being his orical as marking the commencement of the Great War. Born in the Dromore district, County Down, on November 21, 1842, Mr. Kennedy had some years experience in earlier years as a school teacher, thereby gaining a practical experience which stood him well in later years in Larne, where he was prominent as an educationist. He studied, in preparation for the ministry, at Queen's College, and was one of the original members of Queen's College Debating Society. The Rev. Dr. McCosh, whose book, "The Intuitions of the Mind," is a well-known work, was his instructor in logic and metaphysics. At that time the Non-Subscribers had their own arrangements for the education of their students here in Ireland, and Mr. Kennedy was the last of the students of Dr. Montgomery and Rev. John Scott Porter.

In his declaration of principles at his ordination at Rademon Mr. Kennedy stated that the primary object and purpose of his life was to "preach Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life," in order that with himself those he could influence should "put on Christ" in their daily life and conversation, and not at spasmodic intervals of high religious emotion. On November 5th, 1878, he was installed as assistant and successor to the Rev. Classon Porter, in Larne. Mr. Kennedy in his dealing with the National Commissioners of Education proved himself to be exceedingly competent, and in future years the work he has done in connection with the schools in Larne will prove to be a lasting memorial, as well as that of his faithful ministry. He was manager of five elementary schools, and was an original trustee of the Larne Grammar School, and for many years Chairman of the Trustees.

In 1926 the Rev. John Begg was appointed assistant and successor to the Rev. James Kennedy, and during those years of ministry has endeared himself to the congregation, gaining the respect and confidence of his colleagues and fellow-townsmen. The Rev. John Lyle Donaghy of First Larne Presbyterian Church, from his pulpit, made a touching personal reference to one of his oldest friends in the town. "He was a really able man, a faithful minister, and had a grasp of any subject of which he took hold." "Mr. Kennedy has had a long day, and now that the night has come we trust that he rests in peace."

The funeral was very impressive. As was to be expected the attendance was large and representative. The coffin was borne from the Manse to the Church, first by school teachers, then by relatives and personal friends, and up the aisle of the church by members of the Church Session and Congregational Committee. Brother ministers bore the coffin from the church to the graveside. The opening part of the service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. A. L. Agnew, and prayer was offered by the Rev. J. L. Donaghy (Larne). The address was given by the Rev. W. H. Townley Tilson, M.A., of Greyabbey, who at the outset mentioned that Mr. Kennedy had expressed a wish for the service to be conducted by his "Irish brethren." "It was not by his sermons or great knowledge that Mr. Kennedy would be remembered. He had a wonderful gift of prayer. He would be remembered for his affection, the affection of a little child, as only the great have. Those who went to Mr. Kennedy in trouble, were always helped for he seemed to understand instantly. He will be remembered for his sympathy and charity. No one ever appealed to him in vain." Mr. Kennedy's favourite hymns were sung: "O God, our help in ages past," "Lead, kindly Light," and "Crossing the Bar." The organ played "The Dead March in Saul." Mrs. Gordon was the organist. The service at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. Thomas Munn, Cairncastle.

The following clergymen were present:—Revs. John Begg, J. Dare Davies, Thomas Munn, Dr. A. L. Agnew, W. H. T. Tilson, J. A. Miskimmin, A. M. Bell, W. G. Marsden, E. Lockett, G. J. Slipper, J. McCleery, Revs. J. L. Donaghy (Presbyterian), D. Hanson (Presbyterian), L. Stevenson (Rector), E. Teaz (Reformed Presbyterian), Pastor Ball (Baptist).

Mr. David Orr, Killinchy.

We have to record the passing of Mr. David Orr, Bridge House, Craigaruskey, Killinchy, an old and faithful member of the Remonstrant Church, in his 94th year. He

was a scion of an old family deeply attached to the church here. He possessed a spirit and a will which enabled him to take advantage of opportunities in which, through the many changes in his career, he neither faltered nor neglected. His wife pre-deceased him some 16 years ago, and she also was a faithful member of the Church. These two brought up a large family of six sons and two daughters (one of which died many years ago). Their daughter (Mrs. Kelly) lived with her father and faithfully ministered unto him in his old age for many years. The funeral took place on Saturday, February 25th, and was numerously attended by friends and neighbours. The Rev. D. J. Williams officiated in the home and at the graveside in the new Meeting burying-ground, Killinchy.

Mr. John Edwin Barker.

It is with very deep regret that we have to record the passing of one who was a very dear friend and neighbour, for Mr. Barker was one of the summer community at Ballywalter. For some months past he has borne a painful illness with remarkable fortitude and cheerfulness, and with calm contemplation of what lay beyond "the change that men call death," which is only an event in our real life. He gave his testimony to the sustaining power of the life-long faith in which he had been brought up as a boy. The old tradition of English Dissent, with its liberalism, is scarcely appreciated as it ought to be, even by Unitarians. But the life of home and meeting-house were blended with the traditions of old yeomanry, types of which may still be found in rural England. Mr. Barker was "good company," always popular wherever he went, and known among Freemasons as "the man who could tell a good story." He had travelled all over the world. He was a devoted member of All Souls, and believed in its beautiful form of service, as supplying a special need which was met nowhere else in Belfast. He was always ready with a kind encouraging word, and diffused around him a friendly influence. Our deep sympathy is extended to Mrs. Barker, her daughter and to Dr. Dawson Barker, in their bereavement, as well as to other members of the family. J.B.

Mr. A. McC. Jennings.

The Mountpottinger Congregation has lost a faithful member by the death of Mr. Augustus McC. Jennings, which took place at his residence, Sandown Road, Knock, on March 11th. Mr. Jennings had been connected with the Church since 1926, when, on on retiring from the business whic he and his brother, Mr. Victor G. Jennings, had successfully conducted in Glasgow, the family returned to the land of their birth. Of a retiring disposition, Mr. Jennings held no office in the congregation, but so long as his health permitted he was most regular in attendance at worship, being at the same time an unostentatious but generous subscriber to the Church funds. Sincere sympathy is extended to his brother, Mr. Victor G. Jennings, who has been a prominent figure in the affairs of t e First Church, Rosemary Street.

Miss Annie Getty.

Miss Annie Getty, the eldest daughter of the late Mr. John Getty, of Heagles, Ballymoney, and a relative of the late Rev. Moore Getty, of Ballycarry, died at her residence, Bridge Street, Coleraine, on Thursday, the 16th March, at the age of 71. In early life she was a member of the Remonstrant Presbyterian Congregation of Ballymoney, but for forty years had lived in Coleraine. The service in the house was conducted by the Rev. E. G. Torrie, B.A, the minister of Terrace Row Presbyterian Congregation, Coleraine, and at the graveside by the Rev. Felix Holt, B.A., of Ballymoney. The Rev. Alexander H. Dill, M.A., the minister, and Mr. James Boyd, the secretary of the Committee of the First Presbyterian Congregation of Ballymoney, were present at the last rites. The interment took place in the New Cemetery, Ballymoney, on the 18th March.

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"To the impure, all things are scientific," remarked a cynic, not without truth.—Dr. Bendit.

BELFAST DOMESTIC MISSION.

The annual sermons on behalf of the above Mission were delivered by the Rev. E. Savell Hicks, M.A., of Dublin, on March 5th, in the morning at the First Presbyterian Church, Rosemary Street, and in the evenlng at All Soul's Church, Elmwood Avenue.

The annual meeting was held on Monday, March 6th, at 3 p.m., in the Central Hall, Rev. R. Nicol Cross, M.A., presiding. The visitors included Rev. E. Savell Hicks, M.A., Dublin, and Miss Bruce, the centenarian, who has always taken a deep, practical interest in the mission. She was given a hearty welcome by those present.

Mr. Savell Hicks congratulated the members of the Mission on their work, and spoke of the difficulties of the times. "Our lot is cast in an age bristling with problems and perplexities," he said, "the solution of which will hardly be found in this generation. But the solution will work itself out slowly but surely to its appointed end. And the end will be for the uplift and benefit of mankind. An enormous need exists among young people of all classes for some steadying influence of a religious nature, to enable them to feel that their lives are really linked on to the bigger issues around us. Far too many boys and girls regard religion as parasitic and think they can get on without it. They have lost grip on the larger life and larger purpose, and we must get them back to their grip upon eternal things. In this age it is wanted desperately badly. Youth must cease from regarding themselves as belonging to a religious denomination, but should realise that their particular denomination, and all it stands for, belongs to them ; that they are proprietors of a great tradition and heritage which is to be handed on undefiled through those that come after. This spirit would go a long way to solving many of the religious and social problems of the day, problems which depend for their solution on the practical application of religion to practical, everyday life."

Mrs. E. R. Jackson, hon. secretary, said the year had been a most difficult one in view of the great amount of unemployment in the city, and the consequent necessity of aiding families connected with the mission. She proceeded to detail the various activities of the mission.

Mr. A. C. Senior, the new missionary, and Mrs. Senior, were given a very cordial welcome. In his report, Mr. Senior said that the basis of his work would be a spiritual one.

"While the dimensions of our mission are not very large," said the Chairman when moving the adoption of the reports, "it is impossible to assess the contribution made to the people whose lives are connected with it. What is being given in relief is not being given indiscriminately or wastefully ; it is a matter of wise spending to help needy homes. The mission is filling a very necessary part in the life of the city. The necessity is great for some spiritual influence to be brought to bear on the people reached by the mission. There is grave danger, through unemployment and distress, of a deterioration in character and morale, particularly in the case of younger people with nothing to do. It must be a terrible battle to maintain your self-respect knowing that there is no place for you to fill and that the world has no use for you. Religious inspiration is essential to help them to maintain their integrity and self-respect, and that is our aim."

Rev. Edgar Lockett seconded.

Rev. J. A. Kelly, seconded by Miss Armstrong, moved the re-election of the management committee and the ladies' committee, and Miss Hutton (Dublin), seconded by Mr. Harold Thomas, voiced the thanks of those present to Mr. Savell Hicks for addressing congregations in Belfast on Sunday on behalf of the mission.

— The Unitarian and —
Free Christian Laymen's League.

BELFAST CHAPTER

meets in the CENTRAL HALL, ROSEMARY STREET, at 8 p.m., Third Thursday of the month, October to May, inclusive.

OBJECTS (inter alia).

To encourage laymen to take a more active part in the work of the Churches.

To form a bond of union and closer co-operation between the members of the various congregations.

The Committee invite those who are not already members to join. The minimum subscription is 2/6, and further particulars may be obtained from—

MR. J. H. GILLILAND,

35 Rosemary St., Belfast, Hon. Sec.

MR. J. EDMONDSON, Jr., Asst. Hon, Sec.

19 Lime Street, Belfast.

REPORTS.

Killinchy—The Annual Congregation Meeting took place on Tuesday, February 21st, when a goodly gathering of members and their families enjoyed a happy social evening. The weather on the occasion was stormy and very cold, yet a great number were present. At the same time the occasion was used for entertaining the Sunday School Scholars and at the same time for presenting Books for regular attendance during the year 1932. For the occasion the ladies had provided a sumptuous evening tea at 7 o'clock. which was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by old and young. At the Annual Meeting the Minister presided. He had an opportunity to review the events of the past year. Judging by the Church accounts for the past year he was able to say that, in spite of modern depression, economic troubles, unemployment, etc, the affairs of the congregation has been carried through in a fairly good condition. The Secretary, Mr. Hugh Kelly, submitted the Balance Sheets for 1932 these, having been audited, were passed. The Committee were elected for the present year, and the following officers were elected, and thanked for their valuable past services:—Hon. Secretary, Mr. Hugh Kelly; Treasurer, Mr. Thomas Lindsay; Assistant Treasurer, Mr. Thomas Finlay. Presentation of Books for regular attendance during 1932 was made by Miss Hay, an old Scholar of the School, in her usual gracious manner. The meeting then enjoyed an entertainment provided by the Sunday School. Mr. Wm. Stewart sang two songs which were received with great satisfaction and applauded as they deserved. Miss Kathleen Orr recited a really nice piece with grace. The Sunday School Children gave two songs, 1. "All in Step" 2. the other "Father Giles's Dream", and then gave a representation of the world famous play, "Cinderella" in character. The teachers' training of them deserved credit, and the children did their part remarkably well, seeing that it was their first performance. The efforts of the players were a fitting termination to a happy and enjoyable evening. The proceedings ended by Singing the National Anthem.

Glenarm—We are asked to correct an error appearing in last month's notice;—the dates should be reversed. The Rev. J. A. Miskimmin, B.A., was Moderater of the Remonstrant Synod of Ulster 1901-2, and Clerk of the R.S.U. 1905, 1906.

First Church, Belfast—On Sunday night, March 19th, there was a special musical service, when the organist, Mr. Albert Taylor, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., and the choir of the church rendered selections from Handel's "Samson," at the conclusion of a brief address by the Rev. R. Nicol Cross, M.A., on the tragedy of Samson's life as set forth in the Book of Judges. After alluding to the view of Christian scholars, including Professor Strahan of the Magee College, Londonderry, in the Commentary of the late Prof. Peake, the noted Methodist scholar, that the Old Testament story of the popular hero, Samson, contains elements of Hebrew folk-lore, not to be accepted as historically true, the minister emphasised the deeper moral truth embodied in the history, which is a lesson for men in every age, that without the power of self-control and the mastery of one's own weaknesses to which temptation makes its appeal, the strongest personality can be brought to ruin. The condition of all victory in life is the victory over self. "Self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control. These three alone lead life to sovereign power." This was the first occasion on which Handel's oratorio has been given at the First Church, and for the full effect of the music a large choir would be necessary for the choruses, but Mr. Taylor's handling of the organ gave very strong support, and he flung forth great bursts of harmony, while the soloists gave the needed lead and confidence. "Samson" has much light and shade, and its music is often beautiful as well as dramatic, and helps the whole service of worship to lift the soul up to "the Heavenlies," where the bright Seraphim chant their ethereal praises and the celestial concerts unite in harmonies divine before the starry throne of God Most High. We shall look forward to hearing the "Samson" again, when its being better known to the congregation will make it all the more moving and helpful to the soul, and its message be the more appreciated. The soloists were—Miss V. E. Curran, L.R.A.M., soprano; Miss Victoria Gordon, contralto; Mr. T. Corlett, tenor; Mr. J. A. Laird, baritone. The Rev. R. Nicol Cross, M.A., has completed his course of eight evening addresses on the Bible, setting forth its nature, compilation, history, and permanent spiritual value. The congregations were well maintained through the course.

On March 17th and 18th the Rosemary Dramatic Society gave performances of Oliver Goldsmith's famous play "She Stoops to Conquer" in the Central Hall, Rosemary Street. The producer was R. Harkness.

Hardcastle was taken by A. R. McNeill, Mrs. Hardcastle by Miss A. McKelvery, Miss Hardcastle by Miss M. McCullagh, Miss Neville by Miss N. Newman, Hastings by T. McNeill, Young Marlow by N. Casklano, Tony Lumpkins by T. Patterson. These were the principal parts in a caste which was on the whole fairly well sustained, though the play with its 18th century deportment, manners and finesse demanded more ease, speed and finish than any amateur company can put into it without long and severe rehearsal. Some of the parts were quite successful, others less so, in a production that did credit generally to the society, and was well received by the audience. Much praise is due for the very artistic costumes of the period, which reflected a lot of credit on those skilled hands that made them, while the lighting arrangements were excellent. The scene shifting was done expeditiously, and the general organisation in the hands of A. McNeill was all that could be desired. Both he and R. Harkness gave unstinted work to the preparation and production of the show, which for its pretty picturesque effects should be repeated on behalf of institutions in some of our other churches, if they care to apply. The Rosemary Dramatic Society is to be complimented on the high standard of the plays tney tackle. They keep mere drivel out of their repertory.

Comber—The Annual meeting of the Congregation was held on Tuesday, February 28th. There was an excellent attendance of members. The proceedings commenced with an enjoyable tea kindly provided by Mr. William Andrews and the Misses Edith and Doreen Hind, Ardath. In the unavoidable absence of the Right Hon. J. M. Andrews, D.L., M.P., the chair was taken by Mr. David Munn, J.P. Mr. F. J. Orr presented the Hon. Secretary's report which testified to a year of good work accomplished. The Church Services had been well supported and a goodly number of new members had been enrolled. The membership of the Sunday School had increased, and the attendances of the Scholars were slightly better than in the previous year. The Young People's Guild and the Women's League reported very successful sessions. The hon. treasurer's Statement of Accounts was submitted by the Right Hon. Lord Justice Andrews, which was of an encouraging nature. The financial position of the Church had been much improved during the year. He made appreciative reference to the special efforts in aid of the Church funds organised by Mrs. David Munn, Mrs. Hugh Ferguson, Mrs. H. Adams and Mrs. Davies. These ladies were heartily supported in their splendid efforts by the members of the Congregation. The Sunday School and Benevolent funds, submitted by Mr. Abernethy and the Choir fund report read by Mr Alexander Orr, all showed substantial credit balances. Hearty thanks for faithful and efficient services were tendered to the choir, organists, choir-master and Sunday School teachers also to the Minister and his wife. A number of prizes were distributed to the members of the League of Loyalty by Mrs. J. L. O. Andrews. Mrs. Andrews performed this duty in a charming manner and all present were gratified to see a young member of a family that has done so much for this church since its foundation, carrying on in a splendid manner a noble tradition of devoted services. An excellent programme of music was contributed by the Church Choir the Juvenile Choir, Mrs. Dr. Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. McCormick, Miss Bell Stewart, Miss J. Adams. An amusing dialogue entitled "why?" was most effectively given by the Misses G. and L. Casey. Miss Murphy presided at the piano. A vote of thanks by the minister to all who contributed to the evening's success and enjoyment was carried by acclamation and the proceedings were brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.

Cairncastle—Ths annual Congregational Meeting was held on the 10th February. A good attendance of members were provided with tea by ladies of the congregation. After tea reports were presented, which showed an increase in the membership of both Sunday school and congregation, and the statement of accounts revealed the congregation to be in a sound financial position, there being an increase in both stipend and collections. Owing to a successful "sale of work" held in July, £100 borrowed for the renovation of the manse was paid, a new heating apparatus installed, and a substantial balance left to be used for interior decoration of the church. The office-bearers were all re-elected to serve during 1933. Thanks were accorded to the organist, the choir, and others for valuable services rendered during the year. An attractive programme arranged by Miss Crawford, consisting of choruses, songs and recitations by the choir, was much appreciated. On the 21st February a special congregational meeting was held in the schoolroom, the chief business being the presentation of a pulpit

gown to the minister. After tea had been served and done justice to, Mr. J. M'Clelland took the chair, and on behalf of the ladies of the congregation, asked Mrs. Axion to make the presentation. Mr. Munn gratefully acknowledged the gift, and thanked the ladies not only for the gift but the spirit that prompted the giving. Afterwards the meeting became a social gathering, and the pleasure of the evening was enhanced by the presence of a party of friends from the neighbouring congregation of Glenarm. On March 11th, the annual Sunday school party was held. The young people were entertained to tea. Book prizes were awarded for both good attendance and home work. Miss Crawford presented the prizes. An interesting programme by members of the Sunday school, arranged by Miss Duffin, was much appreciated. Toys, provided by friends, were given as prizes in the games that followed—a happy evening for young and old.

Mountpottinger—On February 22nd a Whist Drive arranged by the Church Committee was held in the Schoolroom when a large attendance was recorded with the result of a useful balance for the funds. Mr. Hugh McCullough was M.C. and carried out the duties in an efficient manner. The Dance arranged by Mr. Geo. Doyle for February 24th was unfortunate in coinciding with the heavy snowfall which had a very adverse effect on the attendance, but those who braved the elements spent a pleasant time and incidentally helped the funds. On March 8th a goodly company was present at a Concert arranged by Miss Evelyn Beattie on behalf of the Orphan Fund and but for the heavy rain there would have been a crowded Schoolroom. The programme included Recitations by the Misses Beers, McFarlane and E. Beattie whilst songs were rendered by Miss S. Jamison, Miss K. McGain, Mr. H. Thompson and Mr. B. Stevenson. The Misses I. Redshaw, J. Beattie and F. O'Boyle also contributed songs which were associated with the dances. The 28th Rover Scouts Concert Party were responsible for several items. Mrs. T. Patton and Miss E. Beattie scored a great success with a humourous duologue "The Irish Widow and her daughter". Mr. T. Patton made an efficient chairman for the evening.

York Street, Belfast—Since our last report we have been carrying out the policy of increasing our already abundant activities as the only means of keeping the financial situation in hand. Difficult as times have always been for us matters become more serious with the continued depression and the decreased income from our investments. The past few weeks have been typical of the work of the Church. Sunday 19th saw the usual Services with every seat occupied in the evening though there was no special attraction whatever. Some fifty visitors, new members, and others were entertained to tea at the after meeting. On Monday evening a rehearsal of the Dramatic Society began after 10-30 p.m. as on that night our Hall has to be let. Tuesday was swimming night. On Wednesday Thursday and Friday we produced our Pantomime "Cinderella" to houses that were packed out even on the night of the blizzard. Saturday night the Guild met and on Sunday again we had our two services, fellowship and aftermeeting. On the following Tuesday our first unofficial swimming gala was held, the gallery being filled with Church members as spectators. On Wednesday and Thursday the pantomime was repeated for the benefit of those who had been unable to find seats the week previous. Friday was taken up by a Carnival in aid of the Piano Fund and Saturday was again the Guild. At the moment of writing special Socials are being arranged for St. Patrick's Night, Easter Monday and the Sunday School, while another Pantomime is being prepared for the last week in April. When it is remembered that these are only the public events which are recorded and that behind them is all the routine work of the Church and the preparation it will be realised the amount of work that goes on in our small building and the organisation that is needed to prevent overlapping. Dr. Agnew has been honoured by another invitation to England on a special occasion, the celebration of the centenary of Renshaw Street Mission, Manchester. He will also preach at Platt Chapel and address a Public meeting in Manchester on Saturday 25th. Meanwhile a happy and enthusiastic spirit prevails amongst all and after ten years of struggle our Church is larger and stronger than ever.—G.H.

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